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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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The following is a summary of Soviet border activities during the period 17 March-22 April 1951. In addition to more recent information, this report supplies data for some of the days not reported [redacted] which covered the period from 11 March to 14 April 1951.

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1. Pol Dasht

21 April

Ten carloads of troops were observed going eastbound via rail.

There were artillery salvos behind the east heights of the Shah Takhti post.

2. Dzhulfa

21 March

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: 26 carloads of armed troops. Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: seven carloads of troops.

26 March

Four weapons carriers went via rail from Dzhulfa to Ordubad.

31 March

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: five carloads of unarmed troops.

11 April

One truck carrying an artillery piece went from Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa.

15 April

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Nakhichevan: five gondolas loaded with 47 trucks full of troops.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 16 April One truck full of troops went from Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan.
- 20 April One truck full of armed troops went from Ordubad to Nakhichevan.
3. Sia Rud
- 22 March Eastbound rail traffic: six carloads of armed troops and 13 carloads of unarmed troops.
- 26 March Four tanks went via rail from Dzhulfa to Baku.
4. Khuda Afarin
- One day between 18 and 24 March Twenty-two armored cars went via rail from Dzhulfa to Baku.
- 22 March Personnel of the posts in the area were replaced by troops between the ages of 18 and 20.
- An arms and munitions dump is being built on Dari-Dagh Mountain. Four watch towers also are being built.
- 27 March Increased construction activity was observed at Jarachuan (not located). Twenty to thirty loads of dynamite are used daily in blasting.
5. Garmi
- 20 March Women were engaged in repair of the road leading to the Jige post (not located).
- 26 March Two strings of barbed wire and what possibly were mines were laid along the frontier.
- 18 April A strong fort is being built on the heights east of Seyed-Begleyuk (not located).
6. Astara
- 23 and 24 March Twenty-six vehicles carrying ten officers and one group of unarmed troops went north from Astara to Lenkoran.
- Twenty-two vehicles carrying an unspecified number of troops and civilians and 11 armed and 37 unarmed troops went west from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.
- East and westbound road traffic between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post to the west in the region included 11 vehicles carrying 47 armed troops, two officers, and several civilians.
- There was machine gun practice and dynamite blasting at the Qapchi Mahalleh post.
- 26 March Road traffic between Astara and Lenkoran (direction not given) included seven vehicles with four officers.
- Four vehicles carrying 28 troops went from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

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26 March, cont'd

Road traffic between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post to the west (direction not given) included seven vehicles carrying 44 troops.

27 March

Road traffic between Astara and Lenkoran (direction not given) included seven vehicles carrying an unknown number of troops and two officers.

Twelve vehicles carrying 85 armed and five unarmed troops went west from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

Two truckloads of armed troops went from Alachai (38-27N, 48-47E) to Masjed Mahalleh.

Two truckloads of unarmed troops went from Qapchi Mahalleh to Alachai.

Road traffic between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post to the west (direction not given) included three vehicles carrying ten armed troops.

A group of troops with picks and spades went from Astara toward the Ardebil road.

10 April

Southbound road traffic from Lenkoran to Astara included 11 vehicles and two truckloads of armed troops and five vehicles carrying two groups of armed troops.

Two vehicles carrying four troops, one officer, and eight civilians went west from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

Westbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west included one truck carrying five officers, two vehicles carrying seven troops and one officer, and two officers on bicycles.

15 April

Twelve vehicles and two trucks carrying armed troops and two officers went from Lenkoran to Astara.

Four trucks full of armed troops and six empty trucks went from Astara to Lenkoran.

Westbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west included one truckload of an unspecified number of unarmed troops, one truck carrying 15 unarmed troops, and two trucks carrying male and female troops.

One truck carrying unarmed troops went from the last post to the west to Masjed Mahalleh.

Westbound road traffic from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh included two automobiles carrying armed troops, one truck with five civilians, one truck with an unspecified load, and one truck full of armed troops.

Eastbound road traffic from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara included one truck full of troops, one cart carrying five civilians, and one automobile carrying ten troops.

There was rifle and machine gun practice at Astara.

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16 April

Southbound road traffic from Lenkoran to Astara included 15 vehicles and two trucks carrying four officers, five civilians, and unarmed troops.

Eleven vehicles carrying six officers, 24 armed and four unarmed troops, and two civilians went from Astara to Lenkoran.

Seven vehicles carrying three troops (sic) went west from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

Nine vehicles carrying two officers, 78 unarmed troops, and 14 civilians went east from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara.

Eight vehicles and two automobiles full of civilians went west from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west.

Three vehicles carrying 24 armed troops went from the last post to the west to Masjed Mahalleh.

There was rifle and machine gun practice at Astara.

17 April

One group of armed troops on foot, two trucks full of troops, and nine vehicles with two officers and three unarmed troops went from Lenkoran to Astara.

Twelve vehicles carrying 32 armed and three unarmed troops and four officers went from Astara to Lenkoran.

Eight vehicles carrying 65 armed troops and eight officers went west from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

Four vehicles carrying 26 armed troops went east from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara.

Three vehicles carrying six civilians went from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west.

Sixteen vehicles carrying four officers and 20 troops went from the last post to the west to Masjed Mahalleh.

18 April

Nineteen vehicles and two trucks carrying troops went from Lenkoran to Astara.

Four vehicles and two trucks full of troops went from Astara to Lenkoran.

One truck carrying male and female troops, 11 armed troops on foot, and two mounted officers went east from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara.

Three truckloads of civilians and one truckload of unarmed troops went from the last post to the west to Masjed Mahalleh.

A heavy machine gun nest was repaired opposite the new Bagchen Sareh (38-27N, 48-50E) post.

There was rifle and machine gun practice at Astara.

An unknown number of troops maneuvered at the coastal garrison. After the maneuvers, three groups of troops moved along the Lenkoran highway and two groups returned to the border troop headquarters.

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19 April

Southbound road traffic from Lenkoran to Astara included one truck carrying 25 unarmed troops and one officer and two groups of armed troops on foot.

One truck full of armed troops, and one group of armed troops, three officers, and two civilians on foot went from Astara to Lenkoran.

East and westbound road traffic between Astara and Alachai included four trucks of unarmed men and women. One truckload of troops went from Astara to Alachai.

One truck carrying 12 unarmed troops and one jeep carrying two officers went from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west.

One truck carrying 25 unarmed troops went from the last west post to Masjed Mahalleh.

Possibly 20 April

Twenty-nine trucks with unstated load, two jeeps with 14 officers, and two trucks full of troops went from Lenkoran to Astara.

Four trucks carrying troops and six civilians went from Masjed Mahalleh to the last west post.

Twenty-four unarmed troops moved eastward from the last west post.

One truck with an unspecified number of troops and three trucks carrying 40 armed and 6 unarmed troops went from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

There were seven artillery salvos near Bagchen Sareh.

There was rifle and machine gun practice at Astara.

21 April

Five vehicles carrying two officers and 12 unarmed troops went from Astara to Lenkoran.

Four vehicles carrying two officers, nine armed, and ten unarmed troops, and one truck full of unarmed troops went from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

Six vehicles carrying one officer, 34 unarmed troops, and six civilians, and two trucks full of armed troops went from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west.

Three vehicles carrying 42 unarmed troops went from the last west post to Masjed Mahalleh.

Twenty-two vehicles, one truck full of troops, and one group of armed soldiers on foot went from Lenkoran to Astara.

Eleven trucks went from Astara to Lenkoran.

One truck of unarmed troops and four vehicles carrying two officers and two armed troops went from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

One truck carrying armed troops went from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara.

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22 April, cont'd

One truckload of unarmed troops moved from the last west post toward Masjed Mahalleh.

Thirty rockets were fired behind Masjed Mahalleh; 275 rockets were fired at Astara; bursts of machine guns were heard.

23 April

Nine vehicles went from Lenkoran to Astara.

One group of troops on foot and two trucks with unstated load went from Astara to Lenkoran.

Five truckloads of unarmed troops and one truckload of civilians went from Astara to Masjed Mahalleh.

One truckload of armed troops and two carts carrying 14 armed troops went from Masjed Mahalleh to Astara.

Two trucks carrying five civilians and two unarmed troops and one automobile carrying five troops went from Masjed Mahalleh to the last post to the west.

There was machine gun practice at Astara.

7. Lutfabad

17 - 19 March

Eight armored cars and one artillery piece went westbound via rail from Kaakha to Ashkhabad.

Three carloads of aircraft parts went eastbound via rail from Ashkhabad to Kaakha.

18 April

Fourteen rail car compartments of troops traveled in an unspecified direction, possibly from Kaakha to Ashkhabad.

Thirteen carloads of armored cars, ten carloads of weapons carriers, and two carloads of artillery went via rail from Ashkhabad to Kaakha.

19 - 21 April

One car of unarmed troops was observed. (Direction of travel not stated.)

Seven freight cars of armed troops went via rail from Ashkhabad to Kaakha.

8. Serakhs

20 April

Two fighter aircraft were observed for the first time over Pol-e-Khatum (Pul-i-Khatum, 35-57N, 61-08E).

Five hundred meters north of the Pol-e-Khatum post, a kerosene and gasoline dump is being set up.

* [redacted] Comment: The term "vehicles" is used throughout this report to mean any combination of trucks, automobiles, carts, jeeps, ambulances, and motorcycles.

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